



Chief of Naval Operations

The Chief of Naval Operations takes pleasure in commending

KITTY HAWK BATTLE GROUP

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For meritorious service while deployed to the FIFTH Fleet in support of United Nations sanctions against Iraq from 1 November 1996 to 28 February 1997. KITTY HAWK Battle Group demonstrated unparalleled professionalism, combat readiness, and versatility in a dynamic operational setting. Battle group units uncovered new details of the effort to smuggle gasoil and dates out of Iraq and confirmed Iranian complicity in smuggling operations. The renewed effort with which battle group units conducted Maritime Interdiction Operations enabled them to divert 19 vessels carrying illegal cargo valued in excess of three million dollars. Ships and aircraft assigned the battle group enforced the United Nations mandated no-fly zone over southern Iraq. In support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH, battle group aircraft flew all night coalition sorties over southern Iraq and produced hundreds of photographs of critical target areas. Surface units monitored the skies over the Arabian Gulf and provided air defense for all units when operating in close proximity to potentially hostile nations. KITTY HAWK Battle Group demonstrated the United States' commitment to improving military relations with its Arabian Gulf allies in a series of multinational exercises including GULFEX 97-2, EAGER MACE/EAGER ARCHER 97, and INSPIRED ALERT 97-1. KITTY HAWK Battle Group participated in groundbreaking exercises which evaluated new equipment and tactics. In Exercise ARABIAN SKIES 97-1, simulated ballistic missiles were transmitted to joint units in theater and thousands of miles away. By their unrelenting determination, perseverance, and steadfast devotion to duty, the officers and enlisted personnel of KITTY HAWK Battle Group reflected credit upon themselves and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

For the Secretary,

J. L. JOHNSON
Admiral, United States Navy
Chief of Naval Operations

PARTICIPATING UNITS

Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group 5
Commander, Destroyer Squadron 31
Commander, Carrier Air Wing 11
USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63)
USS RAINIER (AOE 7)
USS ANTIETAM (CG 54)
USS COWPENS (CG 63)
USS CUSHING (DD 985)
USS REID (FFG 30)
USS SANTA FE (SSN 763)
USS SALT LAKE CITY (SSN 716)
Fighter Squadron 213
Strike Fighter Squadron 22
Strike Fighter Squadron 94
Strike Fighter Squadron 97
Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 135
Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 117
Sea Control Squadron 29
Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron 6
Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 30 Detachment 2
Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron 5 Detachment B
Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 43 Detachment 4
Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 49 Detachment 6
Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 45 Detachment 4
Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 11 Detachment 1
Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 3 Detachment 5
Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 3 Detachment 15
